

and the South did not invent it. Throughout the United States, persons who believed in the doctrine of states' rights had long argued that a state had a right to withdraw from the Union whenever it chose. They argued that individual states had formed the Union and therefore could also dissolve it. Some persons in the New England states wanted to leave the Union during the War of 1812, because the war was unpopular there.

Government. Organization of a government for the Confederacy began on Feb. 4, 1861, when delegates from six of the seven seceding states met at Montgomery, Ala., and set up a temporary government. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi was elected President of the Confederacy, and Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia was chosen Vice-President. Both were to serve for one year. After the adoption of a permanent constitution, they were elected to six-year terms. Six prominent Southerners became members of the first Cabinet, and Montgomery was named the temporary capital. After Virginia seceded, the Confederate Congress voted on May 21, 1861, to move its capital to Richmond. The move was accomplished on May 29.

The Constitution of the Confederacy, adopted in March, 1861, was modeled after the United States Constitution. But it contained six important differences:

1. The term of the President and Vice-President was six years. The President could not serve successive terms.
2. Cabinet members received seats in Congress and had the privilege of debate. But they could not vote.
3. Foreign slave trade was ended, but not slavery.
4. Congress was forbidden to make appropriations for internal improvements, to levy a protective tariff, or to give bounties.
5. A two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress was necessary to admit a new state into the Confederacy or to make appropriations not requested by the heads of departments through the President.
6. The President could veto single items in appropriation bills.

The Confederate States hoped for a peaceful withdrawal from the Union. A number of persons in the Confederacy and in the Union worked hard to avoid war. But their efforts failed, and war began with the attack on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA

The Border States were the slave states that lay between the North and the deep South. When the war began, both the Union and the Confederacy made strong efforts to gain their support. North Carolina, Virginia, Arkansas, and Tennessee joined the Confederacy. Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri stayed in the Union. But the western counties of Virginia seceded from the South later in the war, and formed the state of West Virginia. And secessionist groups set up separate state governments in both Kentucky and Missouri, even though these states stayed in the Union. These groups also sent delegates to the Confederate Congress. This accounts for the 13 stars in the Confederate flag even though only 11 states actually joined the Confederate States of America.

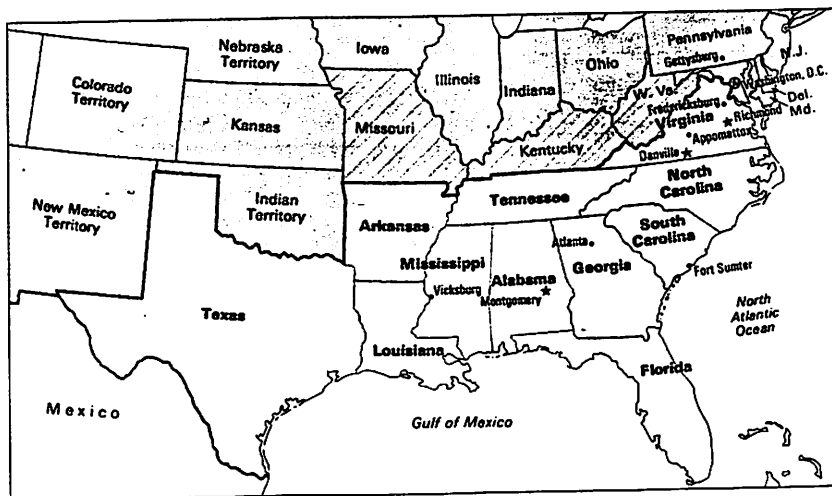
Foreign Relations. Great Britain, France, The Netherlands, Spain, and Brazil were among the countries that recognized the Confederate States as a belligerent, but not as a nation. Recognition of southern belligerency meant that Confederate ships received the same privileges granted to vessels of the United States in foreign ports or on the high seas.

The Confederacy suffered great financial disadvantages. The wealth of the nation, before secession, lay mainly in the North, and the South lacked adequate resources for taxation. The Confederate government had to issue paper money early in the war. This money soon became almost valueless. The people of the Confederate States gave generously to their government, and willingly bought government bonds. But their loyal financial support could not create resources that did not exist within the boundaries of the Confederacy.

Progress of the War favored the Confederacy in the first months. The defeat of the Union forces at Fredericksburg, in December, 1862, led the Emperor of France, Napoleon III, to offer his services as peacemaker between the Union and the Confederacy. The Union rejected this offer. In 1863, the tide began to turn against the Confederacy. The Union armies could get more materials and supplies from the industrial North than the Confederate armies could obtain from the agricultural South. The North kept its army supplied

The Confederate States of America

- Confederate states
- Border states in the Union
- Union states and territories
- Confederate capitals
- Union capital



0 400 Miles
0 400 Kilometers

WORLD BOOK map